

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-3, 5-12, 14-24, and 26-36 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests that the Attorney Docket Number on correspondence relating to the application be changed to read: "16159.140001; P5134."

Disposition of Claims

Claims 2-12, 14-24, and 26-36 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 13, and 25 have been cancelled in this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 14 and 26 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 2, 14, and 26.

Objections

The Examiner has objected to the specification and the claims as detailed on page 2 of the office action. The specification has been amended in this reply to provide an abstract of the disclosure less than 150 words in view of this objection. Further, claims 6, 7, 14, 18, 19, 30, and 31 have been amended in this reply in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indefinite. Claim 4 is amended in this reply to remove the extraneous sentence "marking a plurality of the dedicated

mark bits, if they are not set" pointed out by the Examiner. Applicant verifies that claim 4 should not include this sentence and that the sentence appears solely due to a printing error.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1, 13, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,510,440 ("Alpern"). Claims 1, 13, and 25 are cancelled in this reply. Thus, this rejection is now moot.

Additional Amendments

Claims 16, 20, 27, 28, 30-36 have been amended in this reply to clarify the antecedent basis of elements and to clarify the present invention recited. Such amendments were not made for reasons related to the patentability of these claims.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 16159.140001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/1/04

 JP Osha #45,079
Jonathan P. Osha, Reg. No. 33,986

OSHA & MAY L.L.P.

One Houston Center, Suite 2800

1221 McKinney Street

Houston, TX 77010

Telephone: (713) 228-8600

Facsimile: (713) 228-8778

66799_2.DOC